

REMARKS

Claims 27 and 30-58 are pending in the present application.

Claims 27 and 30-52 are amended.

Claims 53-58 are newly added.

Claims 28-29 are cancelled.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The application is subjected to an election of species. Applicants acknowledge election of Species I, relating to formula (O). Claims 47-52 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Upon allowance of a generic or linking claim Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 47-52.

SPECIFICATION

The specification is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for having terms which are not clear, concise and exact.

The specification has been amended thereby rendering the rejection moot.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The specification is objected to for failing to provide antecedent support for the claimed subject matter. In particular the Office does not find support for isomers of hexamethyltetracosane. Applicant respectfully disagrees and refers to paragraph 28 (of published application) for such support.

Claims 31-32 and 43 are objected to due to informalities.

Claims 31, 32 and 43 are amended thereby rendering the objection moot

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112

Claims 27-31 and 33-39 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement.

Claim 27 has been amended to recite "polyamide moulding compound" as opposed to "plastic moulding compound".

Claims 28-29 have been cancelled.

The remaining claims are amended to have proper antecedent basis in accordance with the changes in claim 27.

Claims 27-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and for additional substantive errors as pointed out in the Action.

Claims 27 and 30-46 are amended thereby rendering the rejections moot.

Claim 35 has been rejected as being unclear due to the presence of the terms "hardcoated" and "dyeable hard coated". These terms are terms of art which are clearly defined in, at least, paragraphs 6, 25, 81 and 82 of the published application. The rejection is improper and traversed.

All rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are now believed to be rendered moot by amendment or traversed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 27, 30-35 and 37-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhler (US 2003/0235666) in view of Plachetta et al. (US 4,877,823) or Stendel et al. (US 4,631,231) or Epstein (US 4,174,358).

Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of previous claim 29. The rejection is therefore rendered moot.

The rejection of claims 27, 30-35 and 37-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhler (US 2003/0235666) in view of Plachetta et al. (US 4,877,823) or Stendel et al. (US 4,631,231) or Epstein (US 4,174,358) is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhler (US 2003/0235666) in view of Plachetta et al. (US 4,877,823) or Stendel et al. (US 4,631,231) or Epstein (US 4,174,358) as applied to claims 27, 30-35 and 37-46 above, and further in view of Ingersoll (US 3,649,541) or Kato (US 4,908,726).

Claim 28 has been cancelled. The limitations of claim 29 has been included in amended claim 27 and all comments will be directed to claim 27.

Buhler is cited as disclosing polyamide compounds useful for molded articles. The Office notes that Buhler fails to recite the amount of lubricant used. Plachetta, Stendel and Epstein are cited as disclosing the amount of lubricants.

Buhler modified by Plachetta, Stendel and Epstein are still silent with regards to the incorporation of 2,6,10,15,19,23-hexamethyl tetracosane (hereinafter squalane) as a lubricant. Ingersoll and Kato are cited as teachings related to the use of squalane as a lubricant.

Ingersoll is related to a magnetic recording disk. The critical parameters are crystal orientation and, particularly, achieving critical pigment volume concentration. In essence, the coating comprises particles and only enough binder to fit within the interstitial spaces between the particles. There is no concern with optical properties since the coating is

completely opaque. Every component is selected for optimum magnetic properties without regard for optical properties.

Kato is specific to a shutter on a disk cartridge. The purpose of the shutter is to physically protect that which is under the shutter, and particularly, a magnetic disk. The components are selected for strength with no regard for optical properties.

The present invention is specific to a coating of high optical purity. In particular, the present invention is related to a polyamide coating with high optical purity. There is no teaching wherein one of skill in the art would be directed to a specific lubricant in a bucket list of lubricants and have any chance of success except by undue experimentation. Many properties contribute to the success of an optical coating, specifically with regards to haze formation. As set forth in the instant examples the ability to predict haze formation is neither an exact nor determinate based on common parameters.

One of skill in the art would realize the availability of a vast number of potential lubricants which are commercially available. They would have to find some way to narrow that list into those that may work in a high optical purity application. One of skill in the art would not even consider magnetic applications wherein optical clarity is non-existent

since this would not provide even a starting point for narrowing the large list available.

The present application is based on a surprising result wherein a specific polymer, polyamide, with a specific lubricant, squalane, yields an unexpected result with regards to optical clarity. One of skill in the art would have no basis for even considering the combination except by a laborious attempt to try all lubricants with hopes of success. Such an effort is far above and beyond any obvious combination provided by the art of record.

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhler (US 2003/0235666) in view of Plachetta et al. (US 4,877,823) or Stendel et al. (US 4,631,231) or Epstein (US 4,174,358) as applied to claims 27, 30-35 and 37-46 above, and further in view of Kaganowicz (US 4,328,646) or Reed et al. (US 4,927,704) or Hu et al. (US 5,298,587).

Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of previous claim 29. The rejection of claim 27 based on Buhler, Plachetta, Stendel and Epstein is improper for the reasons of record above.

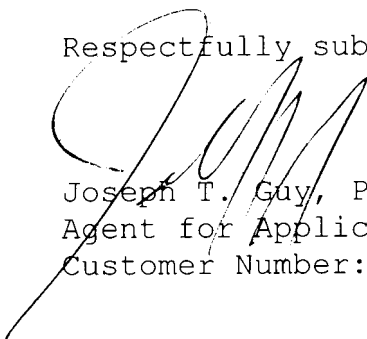
Kaganowicz, Reed and Hu are all directed to a process. The teachings contained therein provide no guidance on the

unique formulation set forth in claim 36 by ultimate dependence on claim 27. The deficiencies of the primary references are not mitigated and the rejection is therefore improper.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 27 and 31-58 are currently pending and believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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